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1975/11/20

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FM USLO PEKING

TO THE WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T/SENSITIVE/HANDLE VIA VOYAGER CHANNELS

PEKING 145 21 NOVEMBER 1975
TO: BRENT SCOWCROFT/JERRY JONES
THE WHITE HOUSE
FROM: RED CAVANEY
DICK SOLOMON
REF: WASH 138, 139

1. OUR FIRST DAY OF WORKING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHINESE ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT HAVE GONE EXCEPTIONALLY SMOOTHLY. GIVEN THE BACKGROUND OF UNRESPONSIVE AND ACERBIC EXCHANGES WE HAD WITH THIS GOVERNMENT IN LATE OCTOBER AND EARLY NOVEMBER, WE HAVE AN ALMOST EERIE FEELING OF UNREALITY. CAN THE HIGH LEVEL OF COOPERATION AND ACCORD THAT WE ARE NOW REACHING WITH THESE PEOPLE ON THE DETAILS OF THE VISIT BE ONE REFLECTION OF THE MOOD THE PRESIDENT CAN EXPECT? OR ARE WE BEING SET UP FOR PRESSURE TACTICS, SUCH AS SECRETARY KISSINGER ENCOUNTERED DURING HIS VISIT (AFTER THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF RATHER CORDIAL WELCOME, DURING WHICH THERE WAS HARDLY AN INKLING OF WHAT WAS TO COME ON THE FINAL EVENING). MY OWN ESTIMATE IS THAT, HAVING DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH THE VISIT DESPITE OUR AREAS OF POLICY DIFFERENCE AND THE CABINET CHANGES OF THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF THE MONTH, THE CHINESE HAVE DECIDED TO PLAY THE VISIT IN A CORRECT AND EVEN SOMEWHAT CORDIAL MANNER.

2. GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE PRESIDENT'S ITINERARY HAS REVEALED THAT BOTH WE AND THE CHINESE HAVE INDEPENDENTLY COME TO MUCH THE SAME SENSE OF HOW TO STRUCTURE THE VISIT. WITH REGARD TO ITS SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS, PROTOCOL CHIEF CHU CHUAN-HSIEN RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE SUGGESTION OF THREE SUBSTANTIVE SESSIONS (ONE PER DAY) BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PREMIER. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IN YOUR WASHINGTON 138, WE PROVIDED A LIST OF PROPOSED PARTICIPANTS ON THE U.S. SIDE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. CHU ALSO INDICATED THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM WITH THE SECRETARY SCHEDULING A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE FAREWELL BANQUET ON THURSDAY EVENING. WE INDICATED, WITH APPROPRIATE OCCIDENTAL SCRUTABILITY, THAT THE PRESIDENT'S PREFERENCE WAS THAT THERE BE NO SUBSTANTIVE

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DISCUSSIONS ON THE MONDAY OF HIS ARRIVAL IN PEKING, GIVEN THE LONG FLIGHT FROM ALASKA. PER YOUR WASHINGTON 139, NO REPEAT NO MENTION WAS MADE OF POSSIBLE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER TO DISCUSS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT. THE CHINESE DID NOT RAISE THIS ISSUE.

3. DURING A WELCOMING LUNCHEON, INTERPRETER NANCY TANG PROBED A BIT REGARDING OUR INTENTIONS FOR THE FOCUS OF THE PRESIDENT'S DISCUSSIONS. I REPLIED THAT IN VIEW OF THE SECRETARY'S RECENT VISIT TO PEKING, BOTH SIDES UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS OF COMMON VIEW AND THEIR

END OF PAGE 1

DIFFERENCES, AND THUS HAD A FAIRLY CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT COULD AND COULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED ON THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. I SAID THAT OUR FEELING WAS THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE PRESIDENT TO GET A PERSONAL FEEL FOR THE THINKING OF CHINESE LEADERS ON VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL ISSUES, AND FOR THE CHINESE TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF APPROACHED THE FULL RANGE OF QUESTIONS THAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED ON PREVIOUS VISITS BY THE SECRETARY. I SAID HE BELIEVED IT WAS IMPORTANT TO SUSTAIN THE DIALOGUE BEGUN IN 1971 AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. MISS TANG GAVE NO HINT OF ANY SHIFT IN PEKING'S RECENT POSITIONS, AND --RATHER SURPRISINGLY--DID NOT PROBE AT ALL ON THE RECENT CABINET CHANGES ON OUR SIDE.

4. THE CHINESE APPEAR TO BE STRUCTURING THE PUBLIC ATMOSPHERICS OF THIS VISIT TO BE RATHER SIMILAR TO THOSE OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S TRIP, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS WITH SOME SLIGHTLY GREATER DEGREE OF "NORMALCY." THE AIRPORT ARRIVAL CEREMONY APPEARS TO BE A REPEAT PERFORMANCE OF THE 1972 VERSION, ALTHOUGH THE CHINESE HAVE READILY AGREED TO THIRD COUNTRY AMBASSADORS FORMING A RECEPTION LINE AT THE AIRPORT (ON THE BASIS OF INQUIRIES TO USLO WE EXPECT THERE MAY BE AN ESTIMATED 30, PERHAPS MORE, OUT TO GREET THE PRESIDENT) AND OUR LIAISON OFFICE PERSONNEL. AT THE SAME TIME THEY HAVE INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO UNUSUAL CROWD ACTIVITY ALONG THE ROUTE OF THE PRESIDENT'S MOTORCADE INTO THE GUEST HOUSE TO CONVEY SOME SENSE OF ACTIVE PUBLIC INTEREST OR WARMTH OF THE VISIT. TWO OTHER NOTABLE STRAWS IN THE WIND SUGGESTING A POSSIBLY MORE ACTIVE CHINESE RECEPTION WERE WORD THAT CHU TEH, THE 89 YEAR OLD MILITARY HERO OF THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD AND CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, IS LIKELY TO BE THE RANKING PERSON AT THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE FOR THE WELCOMING BANQUET, AND PROTOCOL CHIEF CHU'S HINT THAT THE CHINESE SIDE MIGHT LIKE TO GIVE A "SMALL PRIVATE DINNER" FOR THE PRESIDENT ONE EVENING. WE DID NOT PROBE TO SEE WHO THE HOST OF SUCH A DINNER WOULD BE, BUT PRESUMABLY IT WOULD BE VICE PREMIER TENG. (WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT THE CHAIRMAN HAS GIVEN SUCH DINNERS FOR STATE VISITORS OF LATE, AND PREMIER CHOU DOES NOT APPEAR HEALTHY ENOUGH TO BE THE HOST.)

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5. AMBASSADOR RUSH HAS REQUESTED A ONE-HOUR MEETING IN PRIVATE WITH THE PRESIDENT. APPARENTLY HE ALREADY HAS APPROVAL FOR SUCH BASED ON RECENT PHONE CALL.

6. ISSUE OF THE NUMBERS OF PRESS CONTINUES TO BE A THORNY PROBLEM, HOWEVER, THIS IS DUE MOSTLY TO PRESSURE FROM U.S. MEDIA AND ROSENBERGER AND NOT PRC. HOPE TO RESOLVE UNREALISTIC, PERSONNEL REQUESTS PRIOR TO END OF BUSINESS TOMORROW.

7. IF PROGRESS CONTINUES, ANTICIPATE NO PROBLEM IN PROVIDING A COMPLETE, PROPOSED SCHEDULE TO YOU ON OUR DEPARTURE FROM PRC.
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8. FOR JONES: PRC MILITARY BAND WILL PROVIDE ENTERTAINMENT FOR BOTH U.S. AND PRC DINNERS. THEY WILL PLAY A COMBINATION OF U.S. AND PRC MUSIC AT EACH. NEED SHEET MUSIC FOR APPROXIMATELY TEN REPEAT TEN U.S. SONGS SUITABLE FOR PLAYING AS BACKGROUND MUSIC BY BAND IN THE GREAT HALL. MUSIC NOT TOO LIVELY BUT WITH STRONG BRASS IS PROBABLY BEST. REQUEST YOU CONTACT MARY FISHER ADAP IN ORDER THAT SHE MAY GET SHEET MUSIC, ADDRESSED TO GOR SHODWIN, ONTO THE WNCA C-141 AIRCRAFT THAT LEAVES IMMEDIATELY. YOUR URGENT ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER APPRECIATED. PLEASE HAVE FISHER ADVISE CAVANEY BY CABLE OF DISPOSITION OF SHEET MUSIC.

9. WARM REGARDS,

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